

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

ASYNCHRONOUS PIPELINE CONTROL INTERFACE

5 An apparatus and method for externally managing data
within an asynchronous pipeline. The asynchronous
pipeline over which control is sought includes a data path
and a control path. In accordance with the method of the
present invention, a data tag value is assigned to the
10 data prior to its entry into the asynchronous pipeline.
The data tag value is sent into the control path at the
same time the data is sent into its data path such that
the data tag value passes through the asynchronous
pipeline in parallel with the data to which it is
assigned. At a given stage within the asynchronous
pipeline, the data tag value is compared with a control
tag value, and only in response to the data tag value
matching the control tag value is the data permitted to
pass to the next stage within the asynchronous pipeline.